

Chapter 3 – Goals and Objectives



This Chapter describes how the needs and desires of the community – through citizen volunteer boards and commissions, public hearings, and surveys – were translated into comprehensive planning goals.

Development of goals and objectives through the public involvement process in planning the City’s park and open space system has included formal meetings, open houses, surveys, and public comments garnered from specific planning processes and projects. All of these contacts with the public have helped to inform and shape the type of information collected and the resulting recommendations found in this plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

Woodinville Parks and Recreation Commission

The primary mode of public involvement that forms the basis for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is through the Parks and Recreation Commission. This group of volunteers is responsible for advising the City Council on parks and recreation matters. They represent Woodinville citizens in a wide variety of matters, such as land acquisition, planning, park property development, maintenance standards, operational goals, recreation programs, special events, fees and facility rentals. The diversity of views held by members helps to ensure that the diversity of the community is well represented in Council deliberations and in policy direction. All meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission are open to the public and include public comment periods. This critical method of gathering public comment and encouraging public participation is the primary vehicle for making recommendations to the City Council for updating and amending the PRO Plan.

Woodinville Parks and Recreation Department

It is the mission of the Woodinville Parks and Recreation Department to enrich the quality of life for the citizens of Woodinville by promoting healthy living, civic responsibility, community involvement and stewardship of natural resources. The Department plays a key role in assisting the Parks and Recreation Commission and Council in collecting and analyzing data, probing public opinion, and developing options for development and operation of the parks and recreation system. The Department receives comments from park users and program participants, monitors community demographics and keeps abreast of recreation trends and local needs.

The Department is responsible for developing and maintaining a network of facilities and programs serving current users and accommodating future growth as defined by the PRO Plan. In addition, the staff works to develop community partnerships, education, leadership, training, and volunteer programs in an effort to provide citizens with the greatest possible range of parks and recreation benefits. Each staff member contributes toward the body of information necessary to formulate and update the PRO Plan.

Public Involvement

Citizen Surveys

In addition to providing on-going opportunities to comment on the PRO Plan and on park and recreation matters, the City has also formulated citizen surveys that have been instrumental in shaping this Plan. Park and recreation surveys, as well as broad based surveys on citizen satisfaction, have helped to define the park system enjoyed by citizens today and to plan for future needs. These include the following:

Review of 1998 PRO Plan Public Opinion Surveys

The surveys performed for the 1998 PRO Plan were studied for application to this plan. They are six years old, a period over which attitudes and recreation habits and needs are not likely to experience much change and therefore are useful for this new Plan. Three surveys were borrowed from 1998; Newsletter Survey, Teen Survey and Telephone Survey. These surveys focused on facility needs and program needs, as well as addressing other issues.

Newsletter Survey Summary

The survey response was low and not a representative sample of the population.

Facility Needs of the highest priority were considered to be children's playgrounds, open spaces, teen center, downtown sidewalk improvements, off-road walking and hiking trails and wildlife habitat areas.

Program Needs of the highest priority were for after school programs, recreation leagues, teen events and recreation shuttle for teens.

Teen Survey Summary

This was a mail-back survey to school children and also was not a representative sample of school children at large.

Facility Need priorities were listed as athletic fields, indoor gyms, on-road sidewalks and walkways, off-road walking and hiking trails, teen center and on-road bicycle lanes.

Program Need priorities were teen recreation leagues, teen field trips, teen shuttle, performing arts and kayaking/canoe rentals and classes.

Telephone Survey Summary

This survey was a representative sample of registered voter households concerning city resident's opinions and preferences regarding facilities and programs.

Facility Need priorities in general were for children's playgrounds and play areas, open spaces, off-road walking and hiking trails, on-road bicycle lanes, soccer, baseball and softball fields and teen center facilities.

Program Need priorities were for teen programs, athletic leagues and sports programs, before and after school child care programs and senior programs.

2000 Parks and Recreation Mailed Questionnaire Survey

This survey was a randomly mailed citywide questionnaire that went out to approximately 20 percent of Woodinville households. Everyone over ten years of age was asked to respond and the return rate was over fifty three percent which resulted in a confidence level of greater than ninety five percent.

The results of the survey indicate that a significant majority of City residents are willing to support bond funding for a recreation center and for acquiring additional parkland and trails.

Recreation program priorities were for organizational sports first and after school activities second

Facilities preferences, in order of priority, were indicated to be for acquisition and development of athletic fields, a swim pool that would have regional, not just local attendance, court games such as tennis, volleyball and basketball and a recreation center containing a gym and cultural and craft types of activity space.

2004 Community Opinion Survey

This survey was conducted by phone in May of 2004 by a consultant, "Sound Communication" and resulted in a valid representative sample of Woodinville residents. Not all of the questions in this survey were park and recreation related but many were and the results are reported here. Generally, Woodinville residents desire recreation services that will focus primarily on youth and teens. Four of the top five recommendations for

important needs in the City were directed at youth. A swimming pool is a much-needed recommendation. Residents also want additional and improved parking at Wilmot Gateway Park as well as other downtown areas where programs are regularly held. In addition there was a request for more neighborhood parks. There is also a reluctance of City residents to increase their funding support for city projects, which will be a concern for park acquisition and development in the future.

Result Summary of Facility Needs

Respondents in the Reinwood/Leota, West Ridge and Wellington neighborhoods expressed a need for more neighborhood parks. The highest priority facility needs were, in order: swimming pool, court sports with tennis being mentioned the most, sports fields, additional parks and open space, and trails.

Result Summary of Program Needs

The highest priority program needs were, in order: after-school programs for youth, teen events and programs, special events (e.g. Concerts, 4th of July), sports for youth during the school year. Summer camps for teens and youths and adult sports leagues were also commonly selected.

The priority array of needs from the 2004 Survey resembles quite closely the survey results from the 1998 PRO Plan.

Goals and Objectives

The PRO Plan goals and objectives are based on an analysis of existing park, recreation, and open space conditions, the results of workshop planning sessions, all of the surveys mentioned above and the goals and policies developed in the city's Comprehensive Plan.

In 1998, the first PRO Plan for the City of Woodinville was guided by a set of goals and objectives similar to those in this Plan. In 2003, the 1998 PRO Plan goals were reviewed and revised as part of the Comprehensive Plan revision for the City of Woodinville. In addition, during the spring of 2004, the Parks and Recreation Commission participated in a further review and update of those goals for inclusion in this Plan. The current version of the parks, recreation and open space Goals and Objectives for this Plan are outlined below.

Wildlife Resources

Incorporate unique ecological features and resources into the park and open space system to protect threatened species, preserve habitat, and retain migration corridors that are unique and important to local wildlife.

Wildlife habitat

1: Identify and conserve wildlife habitat including nesting sites and foraging areas within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and developed urban areas - such as the wetlands and woodlands surrounding Little Bear Creek, Woodin and Nelson Creeks, the Sammamish River, Woodin Glen Pond, and Lake Leota.

2: Acquire and preserve wildlife migration corridors that link nesting sites and foraging areas - such as the riparian corridors along Little Bear, Nelson, Woodin, Gold, and Daniel's creeks, and the Sammamish River.

3: Work with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to institute a "Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary" program in which private landowners and other volunteers set aside portions of their properties for native habitat and wildlife protection. The program should focus in areas adjacent to migration corridors along Little Bear and Woodin creeks and other greenway areas within the city.

Natural areas

4: Preserve and protect significant environmental features including unique wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts and other characteristics that support wildlife and reflect Woodinville's natural heritage - such as the woodland stands located along the plateaus overlooking the Little Bear Creek and Sammamish River valleys.

5: Acquire and provide public access to environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to the Woodinville area - such as Woodin Glen Pond, Little Bear Creek, and Lake Leota.

Open Spaces and Preserves

Develop a high quality, diversified park and open space system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and features.

Open spaces

1: Define and conserve a system of open space corridors or separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses especially at the city's gateways at Woodinville-Snohomish Road, Woodinville Drive and NE 175th Street, and NE 171st Street and 140th Avenue NE.

2: Increase natural area and open space linkages within the developed areas - including along Little Bear and Woodin creeks.

3: Acquire and/or preserve environmentally sensitive areas as natural area linkages and urban separators - particularly along the steep hillsides that define the sides of all creek corridors, and the edge of the Sammamish River valley.

Urban growth preserves and set-asides

4: Cooperate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set-aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality, convenient park and recreational facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development - such as the wooded, undeveloped, and sensitive lands adjacent to Little Bear Creek, Woodin Glen Pond, Winchester Hills, John Muir Ravine, the Nelson Homestead, and Wellington Hills Golf Course.

5: Preserve unique environmental features or areas in future land developments and increase public use and access. Cooperate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside unique features or areas as publicly accessible resources.

Historical Resources

Develop a high quality, diversified park and open space system that preserves significant historical opportunity areas and features.

Historical features and interests

1: Identify, enhance, and provide appropriate interpretation of Woodinville's cultural heritage, traditions, and cultural features including historical sites, views, and monuments - such as the Johann Koch Blacksmith site, Memorial Mead Cemetery, and the lands between the cemetery and the original alignment of the SL & E Railroad.

2: Identify and incorporate significant historical and cultural lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience - such as the Old Woodinville Schoolhouse and the Historical Society's salvage and relocation of the old mill structure.

3: Work with King and Snohomish Counties and Woodinville Heritage Society and other cultural groups to incorporate community activities into park and recreational programs.

Manmade environments and features

4: Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities, and areas into the park and open system to preserve these features and provide a balanced park and recreation experience - such as the SL&E Railroad alignment through the downtown and the old wooden trestle across the Sammamish River.

5: Work with property and facility owners to increase public access and utilization of these special features.

Trail and Corridor Access Systems

Develop a high quality system of park trails and corridors that access significant environmental features, public facilities, and developed local neighborhoods and business districts.

Trail systems

1: Create a water access system to freshwater bodies of interest to kayakers, canoers, paddle boaters, and other non-motorized water craft users - especially along the Sammamish River and on Lake Leota.

2: Create an off-road walking trail system that provides access to environmental corridors, natural areas, historic sites, scenic vistas, parks, public facilities, and local business districts for local resident hikers, particularly along the SL&E Railroad, Little Bear Creek, Woodin Creek, Sammamish River, and the Tolt River Pipeline Trail.

3: Create an on-road bicycle route system providing access to historic areas, scenic vistas, parks, public facilities, and business districts for local resident commuter and recreational biking enthusiasts - especially along 124th Avenue on Norway Hill, 148th Avenue on Hollywood Hill, and NE 145th Street across the Sammamish River valley. Link local on-road bicycle routes with regional routes to provide opportunities for extended touring opportunities for local and regional enthusiasts alike, particularly along Woodinville-Snohomish, Woodinville-Duvall, and Woodinville-Redmond Roads.

4: Create an off-road multipurpose hike and bike trail system providing access to major parks, schools, public facilities, business districts, and other trail corridors - especially along the SL&E Railroad, Sammamish River, Tolt River Pipeline, and under the Puget Sound Power and Light/Olympic Pipeline (PSP&L) Easement.

Trail furnishings and improvements

5: Create trailhead improvements that furnish trail systems with appropriate supporting services including interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.

6: Where appropriate, locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and reduce duplication of supporting improvements, such as Wellington Hills Golf Course, Woodinville High School, Hollywood Schoolhouse, and Old Woodinville Schoolhouse, among others.

7: Install telephones, emergency call boxes, or other means at major trailheads or other appropriate locations by which trail users can summon fire, emergency aid, police, and other safety and security personnel should the need arise.

8: Develop trail improvements to a design and development standard which is easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.

Recreational Facilities

Develop a high quality, diversified recreation system that provides for all age and interest groups, and enhances neighborhood resources and facilities equitably across the city.

Waterfront access and facilities

1: Cooperate with King and Snohomish Counties, the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, and other related recreational activities and pursuits, particularly into Little Bear Creek, the Sammamish River, and Lake Leota.

2: Develop watercraft access opportunities including canoe, kayak, sailboard, and other non-motorized boating activities, especially into the Sammamish River.

Athletic facilities

3: Develop athletic facilities that meet the highest quality competitive playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests.

4: Concentrate on field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, and volleyball that provide for the largest number of participants.

5: Assist, where appropriate, with the development of a select number of facilities that provide the highest competitive playing standard, possibly in conjunction with King and Snohomish Counties, Bothell, Northshore School District, and other public and private agencies - possibly using portions of Wellington Hills Golf Course.

Indoor facilities

6: Support the continued development and diversification by the Northshore School District of special meeting, assembly, health, and other community facilities that provide general support after hours to school age populations and the community-at-large at primary, intermediate, junior, and senior high schools within the city.

7: In partnership with the Northshore School District maintain and expand multiple use indoor recreational centers that provide aquatic, physical conditioning, gymnasiums, recreational courts, and other athletic spaces for all age groups, skill levels, and community interests after hours on a year-round basis, especially at Leota Junior High, Northshore Junior High, and Woodinville Senior High schools.

8: Assist the Woodinville Heritage Society with the development of a creative use for the Old Woodinville Schoolhouse on a year-round basis.

9: Develop and operate special indoor and outdoor cultural and performing arts facilities in city and school facilities that enhance and expand music, dance, drama, and other audience and participatory opportunities for the community-at-large.

Special Purpose Facilities

Develop high quality facilities that meet the interests of all segments of the community.

Special enterprises

1: Where appropriate and economically feasible (self-supporting), assist the Woodinville Heritage Society, the Old Woodinville Schoolhouse Task Force and others to develop and operate specialized recreational facilities of interest to the general population, such as a special wedding, anniversary, and other party occasions facility at appropriate recreation locations; and a museum and interpretive facility at the Old Woodinville Schoolhouse.

2: Where appropriate, initiate joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to determine and provide for special activities on an area-wide basis, like environmental interpretive centers at Woodin Glen Pond, Little Bear Creek and Rotary Community Park.

Recreational Programs

Develop high quality recreational programs and services that meet all community group needs.

Recreational programs

1: Provide arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care, meeting facilities, daycare, latch key, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community, using the Woodinville Community Center and other facility resources.

2: Provide soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the community - using city, county, and school facility resources.

3: Assist historical and cultural societies with the development and display of artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and the conduct of lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of Woodinville's heritage.



Cultural Arts Programs and Resources

Develop high quality, diversified cultural arts including music and theatrical facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.

Programs

1: Support successful collaborations between the King and Snohomish Counties and Woodinville Heritage Society, Chamber of Commerce, business community, service groups, schools, arts patrons, and artists that optimally utilize artistic resources and talents.

2: Develop strategies that support and assist local artists and art organizations. Where appropriate, develop and support policies and programs that encourage or provide incentives that attract and retain artists and artworks within the Woodinville community.

Artworks

3: Acquire and install public artworks including paintings, sculptures, exhibits, and other media for indoor and outdoor display in support of the Public Arts Advisory Committee mission to expand resident access and appropriately furnish public places, particularly within the downtown core and along the Sammamish River Trail.

Design and Access Standards

Design and develop facilities that are accessible, safe, easy to maintain, with life-cycle features that account for long term costs and benefits.

Accessibility

1: Design outdoor picnic areas, fields, courts, playgrounds, trails, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests, especially at sites with significant interpretive opportunities.

2: Design indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, hallways, parking lots, and other active and supporting spaces and improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.

Maintenance

3: Develop low maintenance and high capacity design standards and capabilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.

4: Where appropriate, institute standards for low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.

Security and safety

5: Implement the provisions and requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and other design and development standards to improve park facility safety and security features for park users, city staff, and the public-at-large.

6: Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that provide proper training and awareness for city staff.

7: Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that protect user groups, city staff, and the public-at-large.

8: Where appropriate, develop adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

Financial Resources and Coordination

Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Finance

1: Implement innovative available methods, such as growth impact fees, land set-a-side or fee-in-lieu-of-donation ordinances, and inter-local agreements to finance facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.

2: Enter into joint ventures with other public and private agencies such as the Park Safety Net Program Fund, King and Snohomish Counties, Northshore, Lake Washington and Monroe School Districts, regional, state, federal, and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires where feasible and desirable.

Public and private resource coordination

3: Create a comprehensive, balanced park and recreational system that integrates Woodinville facilities and services with resources available from King and Snohomish Counties, Northshore School District, and other state, federal, and private park and recreational lands and facilities in a manner that best serves and provides for local resident interests.

4: Cooperate with King and Snohomish Counties, Northshore, Lake Washington and Monroe School Districts, and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent local resident interests through joint planning and development efforts.

Cost/benefit assessment

5: Define existing and proposed land and facility levels-of-service that differentiate requirements due to population growth impacts versus improved facility standards, neighborhood versus community nexus of benefit, and other provider agency efforts in order to effectively plan and program park and recreation needs within existing city boundaries.

6: Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining park and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests, including the application of adopted growth impact fees where new developments impact existing level-of-service (ELOS) standards.

7: Develop and operate lifetime recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the population recovering program and operating costs with a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funding.

8: Where appropriate, provide recreational programs for those interested groups who are willing to finance the cost through user fees, registration fees, volunteer efforts or other means and methods.

Human Resources

Develop, staff, train, and support a professional parks and recreation staff that effectively serves the community in the realization of the above listed goals and objectives.

Personnel

1: Employ a diverse, well-trained work force that is motivated to achieve department and citywide goals.

2: Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals.

3: Where appropriate, provide staff with education, training, and modern equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency, and pride.

4: Establish and coordinate the activities of an active volunteer corps to assist staff and other city officials with park and recreation programs and facility maintenance and development requirements.